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**Bridge, Jennifer A.; Overgaard, Nana Haahr; Cruz, Jazmina L. G.; Veitch, Margaret; Frazer, Ian H.; Steptoe, Raymond; Wells, James W.**

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## Novel regulators of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell functions in the skin

Jennifer A. BRIDGE<sup>1</sup>, Nana H. OVERGAARD<sup>1</sup>, Jazmina L.G. CRUZ<sup>1</sup>, Margaret VEITCH<sup>1</sup>, Ian H. FRAZER<sup>1</sup>, Raymond J. STEPTOE<sup>1</sup> and James W. WELLS<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The University of Queensland Diamantina Institute, Translational Research Institute, Brisbane, QLD 4102, Australia, Email: j.bridge@uq.edu.au

Cancer Council statistics show that Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world (twice that of the USA and UK), and predicts 2 in 3 Australians will be diagnosed with skin cancer before the age of 70. Tumour-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells are well-recognised for their importance in eliciting tumour-rejection, however, in many cases tumour-specific CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells within the tumour microenvironment are dysfunctional. The regulation of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell activity in the tumour microenvironment is poorly understood. This study aimed to explore the mechanisms involved in the regulation of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cells in the skin as a prelude to tumour studies. We have generated a new experimental mouse model in which activated CD8β<sup>+</sup> T-cells from donor mice were introduced into RAG1KO mice in order to assess CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell deregulation in the absence of conventional-regulatory T-cells (Treg). When RAG1KO mice subsequently received CD4-depleting antibody, CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell-mediated destruction of the ear skin occurred. However, this did not occur in mice administered control-antibody. Analysis of lymph nodes 30 days post CD8β<sup>+</sup> T-cell transfer showed no evidence of classical CD4<sup>+</sup>FoxP3<sup>+</sup> Treg indicating regulation is mediated by a separate, distinct cell type. Using the model, we have identified CD4<sup>+</sup> cells, which are distinct from classical-Treg, and we are subsequently defining the mechanism by which these cells exert control of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell function in the skin. Uncovering novel pathways of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell regulation will shed new light onto regulatory influences of CD8<sup>+</sup> T-cell function within tumours and yield opportunities to develop better treatment options for cancer patients.